

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7254

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM
AMBASSADOR KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, GR, CGEN

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION AFFORDED PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS
AT OVERSEAS POSTS

REF: STATE 210312 AND 211364

SUMMARY: EMBASSY ATHENS' SECURITY POSTURE REFLECTS
THE REALITY OF THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE IN GREECE.
THUS, WE ARE GRADUALLY INCREASING PHYSICAL SECURITY AT
POST AT A PACE WHICH, WE HOPE, WILL NOT DRAIN THE RESERVOIR
OF GOODWILL WE STILL ENJOY IN THIS COUNTRY. WITHIN THE
LIMITS OF THIS BALANCED APPROACH, WE ARE PHASING CONSTRUCTION
OF A PERIMETER FENCE, INSTALLING TV CAMERAS IN INCONSPIC-
UOUS EXTERIOR LOCATIONS, THEREBY STRENGTHENING ACCESS
CONTROL TO THE CHANCERY, AND IMPROVING VISITOR CONTROL
INSIDE THE EMBASSY. SHOULD THE THREAT, AS WE VIEW IT,
BECOME MORE SERIOUS, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO GO BEYOND
PRESENT MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE THREAT: AS SEEN FROM HERE, THE THREAT TO THE
EMBASSY AND STAFF COULD TAKE TWO FORMS: (A) VIOLENT
DEMONSTRATIONS AND (B) TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE
HAD TO DEAL WITH BOTH IN THE RECENT PAST. IN APRIL 1975
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THE EMBASSY SUSTAINED APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 DAMAGE AS
THE RESULT OF AN ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION. IN

SEPTEMBER 1970 TWO TERRORISTS, WHO WERE KILLED IN ITS PREMATURE DETONATION, DROVE AN EXPLOSIVE LADEN AUTOMOBILE INTO THE EMBASSY'S PARKING LOT. THE MOST RECENT TERRORIST ACT IN GREECE OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER 1974 IN THE FORM OF AN IN-FLIGHT BOMB EXPLOSION ABOARD A TWA PLANE SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF FROM ATHENS. THE PLANE CRASHED INTO THE AEGEAN SEA WITHOUT SURVIVORS.

2. ALLEVIATING THE THREAT: THE POLITICAL CLIMATE WHICH PREVAILED IN 1960 HEAVILY INFLUENCED THE SELECTION OF AN ARCHITECT TO DESIGN THIS EMBASSY. WALTER GROPIUS' ADMIRABLE CREATION UNFORTUNATELY NOW HAS US GRAPPLING WITH THE TASK OF SECURING A GLASS EDIFICE WITHOUT DOING VIOLENCE TO ITS AESTHETIC APPEAL OR TO THE STILL-VALID PRINCIPLE THAT AN EMBASSY SHOULD BE REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. IN OUR QUEST TO SATISFY BOTH NEEDS, WE HAVE INSTALLED MYLAR COATING ON ALL WINDOWS; WE RECEIVE REASONABLY GOOD 24-HOUR LOCAL POLICE EXTERNAL PROTECTION; WE HAVE REINFORCED THE NORMAL MSG/RECEPTIONIST LOBBY FUNCTION WITH A PRE-ENTRY PACKAGE CHECK AT BOTH BUILDING ENTRANCES; WE HAVE INSTALLED AN ALARM SYSTEM; WE HAVE INSTALLED BALLISTIC SHIELDS IN THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE AND C&R AREA; WE HAVE INSTALLED STEEL BAR EMERGENCY GATES IN STAIRWELLS TO COMPARTMENTALIZE THE BUILDING; WE HAVE ACQUIRED ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR OUR MARINE DETACHMENT; WE ARE ERECTING A FENCE ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF OUR PROPERTY; WE ARE ABOUT TO INSTALL TWO CLOSED CIRCUIT TV CAMERAS TO MONITOR MOVEMENTS OUTDOORS; WE ARE INSTALLING STEEL PLATING ON THE INSIDE OF THE NEW MARINE/RECEPTIONIST DESK IN THE LOBBY; AND WE WILL BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS SHORTLY FOR ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SECURITY OF THE GROUND FLOOR AREA, INCLUDING STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING SUN SCREEN. PERSONAL PROTECTION IS AFFORDED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY MEANS OF AN ARMORED VEHICLE, A BODYGUARD SUPPLIED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, AND LOCAL POLICE PROTECTION AT THE RESIDENCE.

3. POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL MEASURES: SHOULD THE SECURITY SITUATION DETERIORATE, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTROL VISITORS
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MORE RIGIDLY; TO INSTALL STEEL SHUTTERS OR GATES THROUGHOUT THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE EMBASSY; TO HIRE ADDITIONAL UNARMED WARDENS (GUARDS); AND TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL MARINE GUARDS.

4. SECURITY AT OTHER US MISSION ACTIVITIES IN GREECE:
A. THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION, EXCEPT FOR THE EMBASSY MAIN LOBBY, OCCUPIES THE EMBASSY'S GROUND FLOOR. ITS VISA CLIENTELE USES THE SEPARATE CONSULAR ENTRANCE WHERE IDENTIFICATION AND PARCEL/HANDBAG CHECKS ARE

PERFORMED. WE PLAN TO STRENGTHEN COUNSULAR ENTRANCE SECURITY THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF A MSG POST WITH STEEL REINFORCED DESK, INSTALLATION OF A SECOND DOOR AT ENTRANCE WITH A SPACE APPROXIMATELY 16 FT. BY 6 FT. BETWEEN THE TWO DOORS TO CHECK IDENTITY AND PARCELS, AND INSTALLATION OF A STEEL BAR DOOR TO BE ACTIVATED BY THE MSG IN INNER LOBBY IN AN EMERGENCY.

B. USIS ACTIVITIES ARE LOCATED IN THE TAMEION AND HELLENIC AMERICAN UNION BUILDINGS IN ATHENS, AND IN PATRAS AND THESSALONIKI. EACH OF THESE ACTIVITIES ENJOYS A REASONABLE DEGREE OF SECURITY, MAINLY IN THE FORM OF LOCAL POLICE PROTECTION. USIS HAS REQUESTED TWO ADDITIONAL LOCAL GUARD/RECEPTIONIST POSITIONS FOR ATHENS; AND MARINES PATROL THE USIS TAMEION OFFICES DURING NON-WORKING HOURS. IN VIEW OF THEIR ESSENTIAL ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC, USIS ACTIVITIES ARE, I ASSUME, UNIVERSALLY MORE VULNERABLE AND EXPOSED.

C. THE THESSALONIKI CONSULATE GENERAL, EXCEPT FOR A RECEPTIONIST IN THE LOBBY, RELIES ON EXCELLENT LOCAL POLICE PROTECTION. THE ALTERNATE STREET-LEVEL ENTRANCE HAS BEEN CLOSED, AND GROUND LEVEL WINGOWS ARE BARRED. CONSUL GENERAL BRENNAN WILL BE GIVING YOU HIS VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THESSALONIKI.

D. THE VOA SITES IN KAVALA AND RHODES ARE PROTECTED BY A FENCE AROUND THE CORE BUILDINGS, AND THE ANTENNA FIELDS ARE PATROLLED BY LOCAL CONTRACT GUARDS--USUALLY FORMER GENDARMES.

5. EPILOGUE: IN MY OPINION, WE HAVE TAKEN, OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING, THOSE STEPS WHICH ANY NORMALLY PRUDENT CHIEF OF MISSION WOULD TAKE IN THE SAME CIRCUM-
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STANCES. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN INCREASE IN THE DEGREE OF THREAT, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS WHICH COULD SEVERELY IMPAIR OUR ABILITY TO DO OUR JOB.
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